

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13: Canceled.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A vector for introducing a gene into a plant, which comprises:

a desired gene, ~~wherein the desired gene is not a selectable marker gene,~~  
a plant hormone signal transduction gene and a plant hormone synthesis gene together as selectable marker genes, and  
a removable DNA element,  
wherein the selectable marker genes are positioned such that they behave integrally with the removable DNA element, and  
wherein the desired gene is positioned such that it does not behave integrally with the removable DNA element.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The vector according to claim 14, wherein the selectable marker genes are ~~gene is~~ present within the removable DNA element.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The vector according to claim 14, wherein the plant hormone signal transduction gene is a cytokinin signal transduction gene.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The vector according to claim 16, wherein the cytokinin signal transduction gene is the *CKII* gene derived from *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The vector according to claim 14, wherein the plant hormone synthesis gene is a cytokinin synthesis gene.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The vector according to claim 18, wherein the cytokinin synthesis gene is the isopentenyl transferase (*ipt*) gene which is present on the T-DNA of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The vector according to claim 14, wherein the removable DNA element is derived from a ~~the~~ site-specific recombination system.

Claims 21-39: Canceled.

Application No. 09/477,730

Reply to Office Action of December 24, 2003

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 14 has been amended to remove the recitation that “the desired gene is not a selectable marker gene.” Claims 15 and 20 have been amended for clarity. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.